

The Arsenic Eaters.

PARIS, June 1, 1851.—One of the curious facts brought to light by the present war in the East, is a history of the arsenic eaters of Lower Austria. The details of this subject, which are authentic, are so curious as to be well worth a mention. It is said that nearly all the inhabitants in the mountains adjoining Hungary are in the habit of eating arsenic. The peasants purchase it from traveling peddlars, under the name of *kedri*. The arsenic eaters make use of the poison for a double purpose: it is to give freshness and healthiness to the complexion, and to impart a certain degree of *embonpoint*.

It is, in consequence, too frequently that the young peasants have recourse to this dangerous species of coquetry, through a desire to increase their beauty, and it is said to be surprising with what success they attain their object; for the young *toxicophages*, as they are denominated in French, excel all others in the freshness of their tint and by an air of ruddy health. Out of many cases which came under the observation of the learned medical gentleman who gives these facts to the world, I shall mention but one. A milkmaid in good health, but thin and pale, in order to increase the attachment for her which a young man had already declared, determined to have recourse to the commonly known method, and took arsenic several times a week. She was not long in arriving at the desired result, and in the course of a few months she became as round and plump as she could desire; but having grown bold in the use of the medicine, and wishing to increase her dimensions too rapidly, she imprudently augmented the dose, and died a victim to her own coquetry.

The number of deaths in consequence of taking too much of the article are by no means inconsiderable. Every ecclesiastic can cite examples of these deaths, though to arrive at the knowledge of them is not easy; for, whether from fear of the law which prohibits any one to keep arsenic in his possession, or through a consciousness of doing wrong, the arsenic eaters conceal as much as possible their habit of using it; it is only on the bed of death that they confess what they have done.

Another advantage which they derive from the use of the poison is to have their respiration facilitated in ascending the mountains. Whenever they are about to set out on a long excursion on foot, they place a small piece of the poison in the mouth, and the effect is said to be really marvelous—they ascend the greatest heights with ease, and the doctor adds that bearing this fact in mind, he had several times administered arsenic in the form of Fowler's solution in cases of asthma with perfect success.

The quantity with which the arsenic eaters commence is about the size of a small pea of the crude arsenic. They take it in the morning fasting, and augment the dose insensibly. A peasant with whom the doctor is well acquainted takes at this moment about four times that quantity, and enjoys good health. He has been indulging in the habit forty years; his father did the same before him, and his son will no doubt do the same after him.

The habit of the grooms and coachmen of Vienna to give arsenic to their horses is well known. They sometimes throw a pinch of it amongst the oats, and sometimes tie up a bit in a linen rag and attach it to the bridle bit when the horse is harnessed. The saliva dissolves the poison, and the horse is evidently delighted with it. The effect produced on horses is to put them in high condition, to make the skin smooth and shining, and to increase their spirit. The carters in the mountainous countries of Austria are also in the habit of giving arsenic to their horses when about to ascend a steep road, and the effect is really marvelous, as the animals then perform their task with extraordinary ease.

The horse-dealers often make use of little bullets of arsenic for broken-winded horses when they take them to market. They make them swallow from a quarter to a half pound of them, and it appears that the effect, which is most happy, lasts for several days. It is, however, worthy of remark, that though arsenic may be given to a horse for years without any injury arising, if the animal falls

into the hands of a master who does not use arsenic, he at once falls off, loses his appetite, and no matter what quantity of food may be given it, or what care may be taken, it never gains its strength, or its healthy appearance and courage.—[O. S. Journal.]

Battle of the English and Americans with the Imperialists at Shanghai.

In consequence of continued insults from the Imperial forces at Shanghai, the English and American residents, under the direction of the Consuls of their respective nations, determined to take the forts from which the outrages had proceeded.

"Accordingly, at 2 o'clock P. M.," says an account of the affair published in the N. Y. Herald, "on the 4th inst., the forces were landed from the British steamer *Encounter* and brig *Grecian*, in number one hundred and fifty men, and one field howitzer, and they were joined by the Shanghai volunteers, with fifty men, under the command of Mr. Wade, H. B. M.'s Vice Consul. Capt. Kelly landed seventy United States seamen and marines, with one field howitzer, and he was joined by thirty American volunteers with two field howitzers. The forces stood two hundred Englishmen, under the command of Capt. O'Callaghan, of H. B. M.'s steamer *Encounter*, and one hundred Americans, under Capt. John Kelly, United States sloop-of-war *Plymouth*.

"At five minutes to four, (the hour fixed as the limit,) a note was received from the Taotae that the forts could not be evacuated. The method of attack was then determined upon. Capt. O'Callaghan with his English force, two hundred men, was to follow the race course to the right, and Capt. Kelly, with one hundred Americans, was to march to the left, and attack separate forts."

"This was done, each party having captured a fort, when the Americans and Englishmen met, each having marched through the forts of the Imperialists, and jointly attacked the third and last fort which contained soldiers who had made attempts to come down on the settlements. It required only a few shells to put it in a blaze, and the soldiers to flight in every direction. The whole action of the combined forces lasted one hour and a half; the Americans lost 1 killed and 3 wounded, and the English the same; the wounded are all doing well. The Americans were the smallest force, but they had three howitzers, while the English only had one; the post of danger was therefore selected by the Americans."

The Herald's correspondent says: "When the order was given to charge, and we came up within thirty paces of the fort, where the shower of balls fell among us for ten minutes, I never shall forget the appearance of Capt. Kelley; he is usually a little stooped and looks about five feet ten inches, but when the bullets began to rain among us and one of his own men was shot down dead at his side, he seemed to be at least seven feet high, his bright uniform a mark for the jingalls, and his whole conduct so daring that it is a miracle he escaped."

NEW SIEGE TACTICS.—At the storming of the Imperial forts at Shanghai, by a party of Americans and English, the revolutionists went out of that city in a large body to witness how foreigners fight. After they had seen one hundred Americans take a fort and fire it, containing over two thousand Chinamen, and two hundred Englishmen do the same in the space of forty minutes, the rebels made an attack upon another fort which is near the wall, and being repulsed they sent in to Gen. Len, asking for an additional force. Len replied to the officer in command that the foreigners, with only third his number, had just taken two forts, and that he and his men should have nothing to eat till they took that one! This had the desired effect—the fort was taken.

Connecticut seems to be going the whole figure against the south since the passage of the Nebraska bill. The senate of that state has just passed an act forbidding the use of the jails of the commonwealth for the custody of fugitive slaves, and another act is before the same body inflicting a fine of \$5000 upon any person who shall fail to prove a valid claim to any fugitive slave he may lay claim to.

A Catholic priest named Krager or Grogeo has been arrested in Cincinnati and held to bail on a charge of an assault with intent to commit a rape on a young girl. The details of the evidence are too indecent for publication; but it seems, from what is stated, that the girl had been in attendance at a school in connection with the church at which Krager officiates, and that he is superintendent of the school; that the girl went to confess to Krager, in the church, when he led her into a back room, and took indecent liberties with her person, under pretence that he had a right to do so by virtue of his priestly office; and that he was prevented from accomplishing his horrid purpose only by the screams and outcries of the terrified girl.—[Pitts. Gaz.]

THE TEN MILLIONS.—The ten million appropriation passed the House—ayes 103, nays 62, very quickly after it passed the Senate. All is hurry for territory southward; the treasury is bled to procure it. Gadsden treaty is now the Law, and new schemes for more Slave Territory will be practically developed. So we go.

The first instalment of seven millions was paid to the Mexican minister in one check upon New York. The people pay the fiddler. Santa Anna divides the spoils like a gentleman, no doubt.

SPLENDID FLOUR.—To the politeness of the proprietors of our new mill, Messrs. Maholm & Harrison, we are indebted for a large sack of the best flour we have had in ten years. It is indeed super-excellent.—[Newark Times.]

Got the flour, then—hint taken—all right—glad to hear it. Lay away "rusty old brown sword" and let anger cool! hope to meet at state fair.

"Pooh, pooh," said a loving wife to her expiring husband, as he strove to utter a few sentences, "don't stop to talk, but go on with your dying!"

It is gratifying to learn that the crops in Minnesota this spring are in a very forward state. In some places corn is large enough to hoe, garden potatoes have been hoed, peas are in blossom, wheat and oats are up and look thrifty, while all kinds of garden vegetables have the appearance of arriving at maturity much earlier than vegetables in the states. Notwithstanding our extreme northern climate, we can raise many if not nearly all kinds of agricultural products earlier in Minnesota than they can be raised in several states south of us.—[St. Paul Times.]

A FRUITFUL NEIGHBORHOOD.—In Wayne county, Pennsylvania, in a circle of seven miles, there live thirteen families, which boast the aggregate number of 195 children. They are distributed as follows:

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| Jonathan Adams, 18 | Thomas Todd, 29 |
| Jacob Kellom, 14 | John Phillips, 12 |
| John Kellom, 10 | Oliver Bullings, 13 |
| David Eaton, 15 | James Brown, 10 |
| Eben Brown, 15 | William Tyler, 10 |
| James Adams, 14 | Amos Tyler, 22 |
| Josiah Cole, 13 | |
| Total, | 195 |

Except Thomas Todd, none of these worthy citizens has had more than one wife. A man named Lockwood, in the same neighborhood, has been married three years and has had six children. It only remains to add, that this is in a "democratic" county, forming a part of the well-known Tenth Legion.—[Albany Register.]

The average is 15 children per family.

The bill which passed the house of representatives last week, fixes the rate of postage on all half-ounce letters, for a distance not exceeding 3,000 miles, at three cents, and for all greater distances ten cents, to be paid in advance by stamps. All foreign letters are to be charged ten cents, except in the case of existing postal treaties with other countries, providing for a different rate. The main difference between the proposed and the present rates, is that all letters must be paid in advance, and that by stamps; that the postage on California and Oregon letters is raised four cents, while in various places former postage will be reduced. The franking privilege remains as before.

The Cleveland Plaindealer says that chief justice Corwin has decided the liquor law to be unconstitutional.

The Louisville Courier says that one of the jurors in the Ward trial has been expelled from the church to which he belonged in Elizabethtown, for having sworn that he had formed no opinion in that case, when first called as a juror, while it was proved that he had repeatedly expressed an opinion. Other evidence was also elicited which will be laid before the grand jury.

It is stated that copperas is the best article that can be used to render cesspools and other offensive places inodorous. It is a cheap and effectual scent-destroyer.

There was a violent hurricane in Springfield and Swanton townships, Lucas co., on Thursday of last week. Along the track of the hurricane, the trees were all uprooted or blown down, and laid in immense winrows, as if they had been lifted and piled together by the action of the wind.

The house of representatives have voted to appropriate \$500,000 to supply Washington City with water, and \$750,000 for continuing the work on the capitol.

A conspiracy to assassinate the Emperor of France, during his visit to the baths of the Pyrenees, had been discovered in the department of Larn and Garonne, and 150 arrests were made.

Gen. Dannenberg has succeeded to the chief command of the Russian forces on the Danube, in consequence of the wounds received by the general in command.

It is stated that Napoleon has intimated to the Austrian government that the French will interfere to suppress any revolutionary movements in Hungary or Italy while the Austrian troops are engaged against the Russians. A similar declaration is expected from England.

The Chinese Museum, lately burnt at Philadelphia, was built in 1838, and cost \$100,000.

The bill establishing a line of steamers between San Francisco and Shanghai, via the Sandwich Islands, has passed the senate, 22 to 10.

Miss Delia A. Webster, who eloped from Kentucky a few weeks since, where she had been again arrested on a charge of assisting slaves to escape, was taken on Saturday last and lodged in jail in Madison, (La.) to await the result of a writ of habeas corpus. Delia gives the Kentuckians a deal of trouble; she is about as hard to conquer as the Florida Indians.

Speaking of one of the U. S. senators, the Boston Commonwealth says, "He's Ben. Wade, and not found wanting."

John Pettit, who has a seat in the U. S. senate from Indiana, declared a few days since that the declaration that all men are created equal, "was a self-evident lie!"

The chiefs of the "Know Nothing" party in New York city are understood to have had a preliminary conference, to take into consideration the most judicious course to be pursued in the next municipal election. Nothing decisive was arrived at, but deliberations were to be renewed again soon. Nothing positive as to the proceedings is permitted to leak out; but enough is known to justify the belief that the party, or order, or whatever else it is, will avoid making any distinct nomination of their own. That principle is to be acted upon as far as possible. As soon as the whig and democratic nominations are made, the various lodges will be convened, secretly, to examine them. The name of every Irish Roman Catholic will then be struck from the ticket, and Americans substituted. Names that are not obnoxious will be retained. That is the plan.

VERMONT.—The Free Democratic State Convention was postponed until the 13th, when the great Mass Convention of men of all parties was to be held at Montpelier.

TOO OLD.—The Sunday Atlas, in a fit of revolutionary enthusiasm, says, "Hurrah for the girls of '76!" "Thunder!" cried a Jersey whig, "that's too old. No, no, hurrah the girls of '17." The Jersey whig got all to shout with him, we are told.